

**GA&E TESTIMONY
PROPOSED BILL 5727
AN ACT CONCERNING POST-ELECTION AUDIT PROCEEDURES**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. My name is Ralph Eno. I am First Selectman in the Town of Lyme and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 5727, AN ACT CONCERNING POST-ELECTION AUDIT PROCEEDURES. In addition, Lyme is a member of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and COST supports this bill as well.

Since the inception of electronic voting some five years ago, Lyme has been audited three times. To add insult to injury, these exercises have been consecutive beginning with last November's election. 5727 would provide small towns with a four year exemption after a post-election audit.

These exercises are held shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday requiring our registrars to struggle with the availability of election poll workers to conduct a recount of ballots by hand. The process takes the better part of a day and these people have to be paid.

I understand the Secretary of the State has expressed concern that an exemption policy would compromise the statistical validity of the selection process by removing towns from the pool. However, if it can be done for lobbyists per CGS 1-96a(a) it ought to be possible to provide small towns with relief as well.

Further, 5727 provides that registrars shall no longer be held personally liable for fines amounting to as much as three thousand dollars for failure to comply with audit procedures. These fines would be shifted to municipalities instead so the state's leverage to insure compliance with the law would not be significantly mitigated.

Election law seems to be habitually evolving and is often confusing. Our registrars take advantage of all the training opportunities afforded them and at certain times of the year are subjected to considerable stress given responsibility they bear. It is a simple matter of fairness to remove the added burden of personal liability they are presently required to shoulder and place it with the municipalities they have been duly elected to serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have and respectfully request your support for H.B. 5727.